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VOL. 20 • NO. 52

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THURSDAY, DEC. 14, 2023

## Ray Graham Association awarded prestigious 'Accreditation With Distinction'

In an achievement that places it among the top 2% of organizations accredited by The Council of Quality and Leadership (CQL), the Ray Graham Association (RGA) has been awarded the esteemed "Person-Centered Excellence Accreditation, with Distinction." This designation places RGA among an elite group of organizations in the disability services sector.

"This accreditation is not just a feather in our cap; it's a testament to our culture of positivity and the relentless pursuit of excellence in supporting those we serve," said RGA president and CEO Kim Zoeller.

CQL's accrediting body was especially impressed by RGA's "innovative approaches and robust communication strategies during the rigorous accreditation process. The transition from a Specialized Living Center facility to neighborhood living underlines the adaptability and resilience of people with disabilities and their support staff."

"Ray Graham Association is delivering the highest level of quality in their services and they're having an extraordinary impact on people's lives," said Mary Kay Rizzolo, president and CEO of CQL. "It's not easy to attain this type of accreditation, so we want to congratulate them on this impressive achievement."

Given the state of Illinois' challenging backdrop in disability services, RGA's accomplishment is a beacon of hope and progress for Illinoisans with disabilities.

"Our journey doesn't stop here," said Zoeller. "We continue to forge ahead, inspired by this recognition and fueled by our commitment to those we support."



SUBMITTED PHOTO Addison Independent

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## Addison Trail junior varsity Blazettes make school history

This year, the Addison Trail Blazettes are making school history by implementing a junior varsity team for the first time. The JV team continued its season on Sunday, Dec. 3 by participating in the group's first competition (which was the Evergreen Park High School Competitive Dance Invitational), where they finished in second place. The student-athletes include (listed alphabetically, not as pictured): Mia Bozman, Valeria Ceballos, Iris Fausto, Nancy Ghal, Jaquelyn Leyva, Anicelle Moreno, Guadalupe Ochoa, Brianna Pereida, Mailen Pina Perez, Mayte Negrete Ramirez, Emily Stefanowicz, and Paige Stone.

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Dr. Chandra Gill (center) got together to share a few smiles with this group of students at the "Amplify" Student Leadership Conference held at COD.

SUBMITTED PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

# AT students attend Student Leadership Conference at COD

On Friday, Dec. 1, about 600 students from District 88, Naperville Community Unit School District 203, Glenbard Township High School District 87 and Lyons Township High School District 204 participated in a Student Leadership Conference called "Amplify," which took place at College of DuPage.

The conference consisted of 20 sessions that focused on amplifying student voice, mental health awareness, celebrating diversity and identity, social justice, building community, the importance/benefits of

performing arts (and how they can assist with equity, activism and mental health) and more.

The opening keynote speaker was Clayton Muhammad, director of communications for the City of Aurora, who is an award-winning educator, public relations professional and public speaker.

The goal of "Amplify" was to provide students with an environment to build the skill, will and knowledge to intentionally make a positive impact within their peer groups and larger communities.



At COD's "Amplify" Student Leadership Conference held Friday, Dec. 1, students enjoy a session about the power of music by attending an African drum circle.



Addison Trail and District 88 staff members attend the "Amplify" Student Leadership Conference held on Friday, Dec. 1 at College of DuPage (COD).

## THE INDEPENDENT

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44001

## Lange honored with 88's Best award for November

Willowbrook High School senior Joshua Lange was recently named his school's recipient of the 88's Best award for the month of November. Lange, who is a Lombard resident, was recognized during the District 88 Board of Education's Nov. 13 meeting. He is pictured (right) at that meeting with Willowbrook Principal Dan Krause (left). The 88's Best award recognizes students for their achievements in and out of the classroom. The District 88 Board of Education presents the award to nine Willowbrook students and nine Addison Trail students each school year. Krause noted during the board meeting that Lange began his freshman year during

the COVID-19 pandemic, when the entire school was engaged in remote learning. Krause said that like many other students, Lange faced several challenges during that period.

Krause praised Lange for his perseverance and hard work. Lange has earned Honor Roll status at Willowbrook in each semester since the second semester of his sophomore year. Lange plays the clarinet as a member of the school's marching band. He's also a member of Willowbrook's Dungeons and Dragons Club. After graduating from Willowbrook, Lange will attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he plans to study paleontology.



SUBMITTED PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

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All Catholics are invited to receive God's grace.

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**630-279-5700**

447822

# •Warriors (Continued from page 20)

nior Kendall Medinger scored three points each. Junior Kristin Woods added one point.

The Warriors struggled during the first half of their Dec. 7 home game against Lake Park. The visiting Lancers held a 15-8 lead at the end of the first quarter. Lake Park outscored Willowbrook 12-0 in the second quarter to take a 27-8 halftime lead. The Lancers' lead stood at 41-19 at the end of the third quarter.

Bruschuk drained three shots from 3-point territory and scored a team-high 13 points in last week's loss to Lake Park. Senior Kalina Henry contributed seven points for the Warriors. McIntyre scored four points, while Medinger supplied three points with a 3-point basket in the third quarter. Fall and Woods added one point each.

Morton led Willowbrook 16-5 after one quarter of Friday's conference battle in Berwyn. Bruschuk scored all five of her team's first-quarter points with two baskets, including a 3-point shot. Medinger caught fire during the second quarter, when she sank six baskets, including three attempts from behind the 3-point arc.

Gusman rebounded her own missed shot and scored a basket at



the second-quarter buzzer to even the score at 28-28 at halftime. Morton outscored the Warriors 13-7 in the third quarter to hold a 41-35 advantage at the end of the third quarter.

Gusman buried a 3-point shot to cut Morton's lead to 50-48 with 1:10 to play. Morton then made four of six free throws during the final 50 seconds to extend its lead to 54-48. Medinger drained a 3-point shot as the game ended to reduce the Mustangs' winning margin to three points.

Medinger scored a team-leading 20 points for the Warriors. She made four shots from 3-point range. Medinger converted at least one shot from 3-point territory during each of Willowbrook's first 10 games of the season. She made a total of 15 shots from 3-point range through 10 games.

Gusman provided 12 points in Friday's loss at Morton. Bruschuk supplied seven points. McIntyre and Vish netted four and three points, respectively. Senior Tia Kelly and Woods scored two points each. Fall added one point with a third-quarter free throw.

The Warriors' schedule this week includes non-conference games against Waubesa Valley and Glenbard East, along with this Friday's conference clash with Downers Grove South in Villa Park.



CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Rock Valley Publishing

Willowbrook's girls basketball team began last week's action with a 53-42 West Suburban Gold Conference win at Proviso East on Dec. 5. The Warriors lost their next game, falling 51-29 to Lake Park in a Dec. 7 non-conference contest in Villa Park. The Warriors finished the week with Friday's 54-51 conference loss at Morton. Willowbrook ended the week with an overall record of 3-7 and a conference mark of 2-2. Junior Ayaani Gusman (No. 10 - top left) scored a team-high 18 points for the Warriors in last week's win at Proviso East. Medinger (No. 14 - far left) made four 3-point shots and scored a team-leading 20 points in Friday's loss at Morton. Medinger drained three 3-point baskets and scored 15 points in the game's second quarter. Gusman and Medinger are pictured during last week's home loss to Lake Park. One more photo from that game shows Willowbrook senior Kalina Henry (No. 24 - above), who scored seven points in the battle.



## LEGAL NOTICES

MONTANA & WELCH, LLC (308878)  
Attorneys,  
11950 South Harlem Avenue,  
Palos Heights, Illinois 60463

STATE OF ILLINOIS,  
COUNTY OF DUPAGE, ss.

In the 18th Judicial Circuit Court, DuPage County, Illinois, Chancery Department, VILLAGE OF BENSENVILLE, a Municipal Corporation, Plaintiff, vs. Wah C. Chu, Royal Business Bank, Successor in interest to Pacific Global Bank, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Case No. 2023 CH 000270.

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you Wah C. Chu, Royal Business Bank, Successor in interest to Pacific Global Bank, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants in the above-titled suit, that said suit has been commenced in the 18th Judicial Circuit Court, DuPage County, Illinois, Chancery Division, by the said plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for a demolition of the structure and removal of garbage and debris from the premises described as follows:

LOTS 14, 15 AND 16 IN BLOCK 10 IN BAUCKE'S RESUBDIVISION OF LOTS 10 AND 11 IN BRETTMAN'S ADDITION TO BENSENVILLE, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF THE SOUTHWEST 1/4

OF SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 40 NORTH, RANGE 11, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED MAY 10, 1911 AS DOCUMENT 104212, IN DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

P.I.N. No's: 03-13-315-001 (Lots 15 and 16); 03-13-315-002 (Lot 14)

Commonly known as:  
118 E. Green Street, Bensenville, Illinois 60106  
173 S. May Street, Bensenville, Illinois 60106

Now, therefore, unless you, the said above named defendants, file your answer to the Complaint in the said suit or otherwise make your appearance herein, in the office of the Clerk of the 18th Judicial Circuit Court of DuPage County, Illinois Chancery Department, 505 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, Illinois 60187 on or before January 5, 2023, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

CANDACE ADAMS, Clerk.

(Published in the Addison Independent, Bensenville Independent & Villa Park Review Dec. 7, 14 & 21, 2023)

448121

## Answers

### PUZZLE 1

9	3	6	1	4	7	5	2	8
1	5	2	9	8	6	3	4	7
7	8	4	5	3	2	9	6	1
3	2	9	8	6	1	4	7	5
8	4	7	2	9	5	6	1	3
6	1	5	4	7	3	2	8	9
4	6	1	3	5	8	7	9	2
2	9	3	7	1	4	8	5	6
5	7	8	6	2	9	1	3	4

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### PUZZLE 2

4	2	3	5	9	7	1	6	8
7	1	9	2	8	6	3	5	4
5	8	6	4	3	1	7	2	9
9	6	4	8	2	3	5	1	7
8	5	2	1	7	9	4	3	6
1	3	7	6	5	4	9	8	2
2	7	1	3	4	8	6	9	5
3	9	8	7	6	5	2	4	1
6	4	5	9	1	2	8	7	3

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# Villa Park REVIEW

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CHRIS FOX PHOTOS Villa Park Review

## Willowbrook students' art on display

Willowbrook High School hosted an opening reception last week for the school's Student Art Show at Villa Park's Funky Java Coffee House, which is located at 40 S. Villa Ave. The event featured over 100 pieces of art in various media created by more than 70 Willowbrook students. The exhibit was on display throughout last week. Funky Java Coffee House owner Larry Poggi began hosting a December art show featuring Willowbrook students' creations about 15 years ago. Senior Lauren Carson (top middle) and junior Nina Young (above) are pictured in front of their pieces.



One photo (above) from the opening reception shows Willowbrook senior Annabelle Thompson pointing toward her drawing.

One more photo (left) from the event shows Poggi (left) with District 88 Superintendent Jean Barbanente (right).

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# Three Chicago women charged with burglary/retail theft from Oak Brook Ulta store

## Driver faces additional charges of leading police on high-speed chase

DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin and Oak Brook Deputy Chief of Police Reid Foltyniewicz announced last week that Judge Joshua Dieden has granted the state's motion to deny pre-trial release for a Chicago woman accused of stealing from the Oak Brook Ulta store and leading police on a high-speed chase.



Damonica Stewart

Damonica Stewart, 27, appeared at First Appearance Court and is charged with one count of burglary (Class 2 felony), one count of retail theft (Class 3 felony) and two counts of aggravated fleeing and eluding (Class 4 felony).

Judge Dieden denied the state's motion to detain pre-trial Stewart's co-defendants, Omesha Hawkins, 28, and Onequa Hawkins, 32. Both women, from Chicago, are charged with one count of burglary (Class 2 felony) and two counts of retail theft (one Class 3 felony and one Class 4 felony).

It is alleged that on Dec. 4 at approximately 3:15 p.m., the three defendants entered the Oak Brook Ulta store located in the 2100 block of

W. 22nd St. It is alleged that the trio stole multiple items totaling more than \$300 and left the store without paying for the merchandise. It is further alleged that the women then entered a BMW and fled the area.

An Oak Brook police officer responded to the area and located the BMW allegedly turning against a one way only sign near 22nd Street and Midwest Road. The officer activated his emergency lights and sirens and initiated pursuit of the defendants' vehicle, allegedly driven by Stewart.

It is alleged that Stewart did not pull over and instead accelerated, reaching speeds of approximately 70 mph.

It is further alleged that as Stewart fled the officer, she drove erratically down 22nd Street weaving in and out of lanes, drove on the median at one point to pass vehicles at a stop light and drove between vehicles waiting at a stop light.

It is alleged that Stewart's vehicle came to a stop after striking two other vehicles.



Omesha Hawkins

All three defendants were taken into custody at this time. Upon searching the BMW, authorities found merchandise stolen from Ulta.

"It is alleged that these three defendants helped themselves to more than three hundred dollars' worth of merchandise from Ulta and simply walked out the door without paying," Berlin said. "To make matters worse, it is alleged that the driver of their getaway vehicle, Ms. Stewart, then led police on a high-speed chase in the middle of the afternoon during the busy holiday shopping season, putting the general public as well as innocent motorists at risk. I thank the Bloomingdale and Oakbrook Terrace Police Department for their assistance in this case."

The next court appearance for all three defendants is scheduled Dec. 26 for arraignment in front of Judge Margaret O'Connell. As a condition of their release, the defendants are prohibited from entering any Ulta store.



Onequa Hawkins

# Big picture for DuPage tourism grows

## New board members represent holistic goal for DuPage County's visitor economy

The DuPage Convention & Visitors Bureau (DCVB) inducted five new members to its Board of Directors as the organization focuses on the opportunities that lie ahead for DuPage County through 2026.

New members include Mark Doles, executive director, DuPage Airport Authority; Adam Henrikson, general manager, Hyatt Lodge Oak Brook Chicago; Matt LaFond, executive director, Cantigny Park; Alicia LaVire,

vice president of marketing and guest services, The Morton Arboretum; and Jonathan Kruger, director of marketing, Science of Spirituality Meditation Center. Each new member will serve a two-year term.

DCVB's Board of Directors consists of 26 leaders with various backgrounds working in collaboration to ensure growth and sustainability of DuPage's visitor industry—an important sector of DuPage's economy.

"What a great time right now for DuPage," said Brett Hintz, chairman of the DCVB Board of Directors. "With hotel data showing an increase in business travel, a positive forecast for international visitation, and big events on the horizon, DuPage is primed to capitalize on market opportunities culminating with the 2026 Presidents Cup at Medinah Country Club. Thank you to our five new and 21 returning board members for their support and val-

able leadership as we keep forward momentum."

DuPage County is the second largest generator of travel and hospitality business in Illinois, second only to Chicago. At its annual meeting held in October, DCVB released DuPage County's 2022 visitor impact numbers, highlighting the strength of the industry and destination: tourism revenues reached \$2.99 billion—surpassing the \$2.86 billion generated in 2019.

Other key markers all showed growth over the prior year, with more than 25,000 tourism-related jobs (up 14.5 percent YOY), \$893 million in payroll (up 15.2 percent YOY), \$90 million in local tax receipts (up 28.5 percent YOY), and \$208 million in state tax receipts (up 35.7 percent YOY).

"The landscape right now is unlike anything I've seen for DuPage," said DCVB Executive Director Beth Marchetti. "DuPage historically was a meetings destination. The demand we experienced in 2022 helped us achieve our potential in the leisure market. Nationally, leisure is slowing to more typical levels, but our goal is to keep the gains made in this important market."

"DuPage has an unparalleled mix of amenities for leisure, meetings and events, and sports tourism. Now they all need to align moving forward and I believe we have the right mix of leadership on our Board to help us achieve that," Marchetti said that the DCVB will remain responsive to an ever-evolving tourism environment but firm in this long-term vision for DuPage's positioning in the marketplace. "DCVB's philosophy and that of the board has always been strategic and sustainable growth. Today, we're in a very good place because of that," he said.



CHRIS FOX PHOTO Rock Valley Publishing

## Winter concert

Willowbrook High School's music department presented the first of three winter concerts last week. The Dec. 7 concert in the school's auditorium featured performances from Willowbrook's jazz bands and vocal jazz ensemble. Members of Willowbrook's Jazz Band 1 are pictured during the concert. The second winter concert, which featured Willowbrook's bands, took place earlier this week. The school's winter concert series concludes with tonight's performance, which will feature the school's choir and orchestra, as well as its guitar ensemble.

## VILLA PARK REVIEW

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